

RICHARD LUGAR

Mr. President, as we enter the final weeks of the 112th Congress, one of the toughest tasks for me is saying good-bye to colleagues who will not be with us at the start of the next Congress.

I would like to kick it off this morning by spending just a few minutes bragging on my longtime friend and neighbor to the north, Senator DICK LUGAR.

Let me start by saying I am grateful to have served alongside this good man and to have had a front-row seat for much of his illustrious career.

To give an idea of the kind of career DICK LUGAR has had, consider this: He was an Eagle Scout, first in his class in high school, first in his class in college, a Rhodes Scholar, Naval intelligence briefer, corporate turnaround artist, and big-city mayor. That was all by the age of 35. He has excelled at everything he has ever done. Most incredibly, he has done it with perfectly smooth elbows. Walk into any office on Capitol Hill and you would not find a single person who would say a bad word about DICK LUGAR. He has earned the respect and admiration of everyone who ever crossed his path. I assure you, in the world of politics, that is nothing short of a miracle. Now DICK has decided to press his luck. He is moving into the only line of work where rivalries are even more vicious than in politics—he is becoming a college professor.

DICK and I go all the way back to my first Senate race in 1984. He was the head of the NRSC at the time. He took a chance on me, and I have always been grateful. He has been a friend ever since.

A lot of Hoosiers cross the Ohio River every day to work in Kentucky, but it is not often a Hoosier Senator crosses it to help a Kentuckian making his first bid for the Senate. Since we are from neighboring States, our work in the Senate has often overlapped over the years. I truly lucked out. DICK has always been helpful and cooperative and a perfect gentleman.

With his six terms in the Senate, Senator LUGAR is the longest serving Member of Congress in Indiana history. He ranks 10th on the list of Senators who have cast the most rollcall votes.

As the longtime chair or ranking member on the Foreign Relations Committee, he has become one of America's most respected voices on matters pertaining to foreign policy. Indeed, Senator LUGAR commands the highest respect not only from his peers in the Senate but around the world, for his deep knowledge of foreign policy, national security, agriculture, and trade.

To a lot of liberals, he is a walking contradiction: a Republican intellectual. He has always worn that reputation lightly. Anyone who has ever been on a CODEL with DICK has seen his method. He stuffs his carry-on to the point of bursting with memos, newspapers, magazines, journals, reports, survey data, you name it. Apparently,

Trent Lott sat next to him on the plane once and was horrified at the way he tore out the pages and scribbled notes on them. We all know Trent would never be so indelicate.

Senator LUGAR has always had a global view. It started during his days as a Rhodes Scholar and an intelligence briefer in the Navy and he brought that global view back to Indiana. After the untimely death of his dad, DICK and his brother took over the family business and reinvented it from a struggling domestic operation to a global leader in the manufacture of baking machinery.

He went from success to success, moving from a seat on the Indianapolis school board into the mayor's office, and then, in 1996, on to the Senate. What a Senate career it has been.

For my part, I think Senator LUGAR's achievement in passing the Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threats Reduction Program in 1991 was a great achievement, not just for himself but for the entire world.

The Nunn-Lugar program provides assistance to former Soviet states such as Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, and Belarus in helping them dismantle and destroy their nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons, in order to prevent them from coming under the control of terrorists.

As of 2011, Nunn-Lugar has deactivated over 7,600 strategic warheads, 791 intercontinental ballistic missiles, 669 submarine-launched ballistic missiles, 32 nuclear submarines, and 194 nuclear test tunnels. It has neutralized 1,395 metric tons of chemical weapons, and it has certified that the countries of the Ukraine, Kazakhstan, and Belarus—which once held the third, fourth, and eighth largest nuclear arsenals in the world, respectively—are now nuclear-free. What an incredible legacy.

After the September 11 attacks, Senator LUGAR called for and helped pass the expansion of the Nunn-Lugar approach, resulting in the Global Threat Reduction Initiative, which aims to prevent chemical and biological weapons from falling into the hands of terrorists. He has been a leader in Congress on the issue of ensuring food safety and supply internationally for years.

It is the mark of a leader that he thinks not only of his own moment in time but of the future of his community and of his fellow man, here and around the world. I think it is safe to say few Senators embody that spirit as fully as Senator LUGAR. That is not just my opinion. For his work to make the world a safer place, Senator LUGAR has been justly nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize.

Senator LUGAR was first elected to the Senate in 1976 and has served for six terms. He is beloved in his home State of Indiana and in bordering Kentucky too. There is not only a lot of admiration but a lot of affection for this giant of the Senate just south of Hoosier territory.

Senator LUGAR has put his extraordinary talent to the service of this institution and his fellow countrymen, and I have no doubt he will be remembered as one of the best.

Senator LUGAR would probably tell us his greatest achievement was marrying Char. They have been married now for more than 50 years. They are proud of their four sons and their 13 grandchildren, and they can be proud of the great teamwork they have had together over the years, from their time as co-presidents of their senior class at Denison University. Char and the boys were involved in all his campaigns. The Senate family is sad to see them go as well.

Senator, you are a treasure to the Senate and a model of the public servant. We are sorry to see you go, and I am sorry to lose your wise counsel. I know that whatever you turn to next, you will be a great success, and I look forward to hearing all about it. Thank you for your tremendous service to this body, to the State of Indiana, and to the Nation.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in morning business for 1 hour, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes, the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the majority controlling the first half.

The Senator from Illinois.

RICHARD LUGAR

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, let me first echo the comments of the Republican leader, Senator MCCONNELL, about our colleague and friend, Senator DICK LUGAR of Indiana.

It has been my good fortune now for some 16 years to serve in the Senate with Senator DICK LUGAR and to come to know him and his wife Char and, more importantly, to come to know their work together on behalf of Indiana and the United States. DICK LUGAR is truly a giant in the Senate. We are going to miss him. There aren't many with the vision of DICK LUGAR.

There is something about standing in the middle of this country, Adlai Stevenson II once noted, with the flatlands all around you that gives you a perspective on the world a little different. DICK LUGAR's perspective on the world has been so insightful and so important for decades.

His work with Senator Nunn in dealing with the proliferation of nuclear weaponry and the dissolution of the Soviet Union was truly historic and

may have saved the world from catastrophe time and again. He reached out to a young Senator from Illinois by the name of Barack Obama and took him on a congressional delegation tour to look into this issue. I think at the end of the day their friendship was solid, and President Obama notes it was one of the more important overseas visits he made as a Member of the Senate.

I know DICK LUGAR as well from the many times we came together with our wives at the Aspen Institute. It is truly unfortunate that there aren't more Senators participating in the Aspen Institute. It is a meeting, usually overseas, of members of the Senate and their spouses with experts to discuss some of the most important problems facing us in this world. No lobbyists are allowed to attend; it is truly 2 or 3 days of work. But it is also a time in the evening to sit together and come to know a family. Loretta and I have come to know Char and DICK LUGAR as exceptional people. Char and I would sit and talk about books—which she loves to read and I do too—and DICK and I would talk about the topic of the day, and we created a bond of friendship in those experiences.

He has done so much work in the Senate, as Senator MCCONNELL noted, starting as the mayor of Indianapolis and working his way up to the Senate. He became a powerful force in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and I was honored to serve on that committee over the last several years and watch his work unfold and evolve.

DICK LUGAR is going on to great things, I am sure. This is not the end of his service to our country. I wish him and Char the very best, whatever their next undertaking may be.

As you receive praise from the Senator from Kentucky to the south of Indiana, accept some from the Senator from west of Indiana in the State of Illinois. I am honored to count DICK LUGAR as a friend, and I am sure going to miss you. You have been an extraordinary ally and colleague on so many important issues.

DANIEL AKAKA

Mr. President, I also add my comments in chorus to what the majority leader said about Senator DAN AKAKA of Hawaii.

I came to know him—and I have spoken about this on the floor—and Millie who are the perfect Senate family. They have devoted a major part of their lives to serving Hawaii and serving in the national interest.

The legacy Senator AKAKA leaves behind is substantial when it comes to legislation, particularly in helping veterans and agricultural issues. But, more important, what DAN AKAKA leaves behind is the feeling of kinship and camaraderie which he has with so many Members of the Senate. He is a stalwart at the Senate Prayer Breakfast, leading the singing every Wednesday morning, and it is heartfelt and very genuine.

As Senator REID mentioned earlier, his family background of Hawaii—

which he shared with us one afternoon at a lunch—is a tradition of giving and hospitality which we find built in to DANNY AKAKA. We are going to miss him.

JIM WEBB

To the Presiding Officer—I said a few words on the floor before—we thank you for your service. You did an extraordinary job here. There aren't many one-termers who make a mark in the Senate and on the Nation. You did it.

I can remember—I thought it was a little bold of you, maybe even more—when you came in and said: I want to rewrite the GI bill, and you did it and it was exceptional. You have helped thousands of men and women who have served in our military come back to America and be welcomed and be productive parts of our future.

In so many ways, I wish to thank Senator JIM WEBB, our Presiding Officer, for being an important and viable part of the Senate. I know you will continue to serve our Nation in many different capacities in the future, and I am sure they will be equally exceptional.

THE FISCAL CLIFF

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I have to answer some of the comments made earlier by the Republican leader as he talked about the state of negotiations between the President and Congress as we face the fiscal cliff. He said at one point that the President is calling for raising taxes \$1.6 trillion. That is true. But I would call to his attention that the Simpson-Bowles Commission suggested that 40 percent of the \$4 trillion in deficit reduction comes from revenue and taxes. What the President is suggesting is entirely consistent with that bipartisan group's call for more revenue and taxes as part of our deficit reduction.

The President has made it clear, though, that he wants to protect and insulate middle-income families from any income tax increases, and I agree with him. We should not raise the income taxes on those making less than \$250,000 a year. I voted that way in July. We sent the bill to the House. It sits there. It languishes in the House because the Speaker will not call it. He has his chance this week or next to call that bill on the floor of the House of Representatives to avoid any tax increase on middle-income families. That is an important bill for us to get done before we leave at the end of this particular session of Congress.

Let me say that \$1.6 trillion in taxes over 10 years is not an unreasonable amount. The tax rate the President is asking for is the rate that was in place during the expansive period in our economy under President Bill Clinton. To argue that the President has gone too far in asking for tax and revenue is to ignore the obvious. It is the same percentage asked for by Simpson-Bowles, if not less, and it is a tax rate

that, frankly, ruled in this country at a period of time when we had more jobs and businesses created than ever in recent history.

A second argument that was made by the Republican leader is that there is a proposal from the President to raise the debt ceiling at his whim. Those are his words. I beg to differ. What the President has proposed is exactly the McConnell procedure. Senator MCCONNELL of Kentucky suggested to us that we have a process for extending the debt ceiling that allows Members of Congress to vote to approve or disapprove and ultimately for the President to decide whether to sign into law—their resolution of disapproval, for example. That, of course, could lead to a veto and another opportunity for Congress to vote again.

This was a process Senator MCCONNELL suggested. It was a way out of a bind when the House Republicans and others threatened to shut down the economy over the debt ceiling extension, which is, in fact, the mortgage of the United States of America. It would have otherwise led to the first major default on America's debt in our history, with calamitous results when it came to the impact on our economy.

For the Republican leader to come to the floor and criticize the very same procedure he suggested and voted for I think is hard to understand and explain. Last week he came to the floor and suggested that we enshrine it in law. He offered the bill on the floor. Senator REID came and said: We accept your invitation, and we will take a rollcall vote on that, at which point Senator MCCONNELL filibustered his own bill that he had introduced, I recall, earlier in the day. I think he made history in the Senate, filibustering his own bill when we had a chance to vote and pass it.

I would say this notion that the President is looking for an extraordinary power when it comes to the debt ceiling is not quite accurate. I say to the Senator from Kentucky, if we accept your approach to it, it will give the Senate and House a voice, but we will not risk default.

Third, the Senator from Kentucky was lamenting the size of government growth. When we took a look at the last time we balanced the budget and had a surplus in Washington, it was under President William Jefferson Clinton, a little over 12 years ago. What has happened to spending since President Clinton's balanced budget? It has gone up substantially. Where has it gone up? In domestic discretionary accounts, which are often the target of speeches like Senator MCCONNELL's today? No. That has basically been flatlined when you take inflation into consideration. The dramatic growth in government spending since we were last in balance has been in two areas. One of those was in military spending. I might add that the reason it has grown dramatically is we have been at war in Afghanistan and Iraq. The